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Complaint against the Maternity Hospital authorities, Egmore.

* 2255 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a complaint, dated 3rd March 1955, from one Ramaswamy Padayachi of Kuttalam, Tanjore district, regarding the failure of the Maternity Hospital authorities, Egmore, to intimate to him the death of his aunt in the hospital; and

(*b*) the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) After a thorough enquiry into the case, the Government found that there was no truth in the allegation. The petitioner has also been informed accordingly."

Investigation of grave offences in Ramanathapuram district.

* 2256 *Q.*—SRI R. S. ARUMUGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representation was received by the Government on 3rd March 1955 from Paramakudi, Ramanathapuram district, regarding the failure of the Police properly to investigate the cases of dacoity, murder and arson committed by Caste-Hindus on Harijans; and

(*b*) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) No such representation was received by the Government. The Government however received a telegram purporting to be from the Harijans of Paramakudi wherein it was alleged that a case against Odayars of Pethanendal village under the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act had not been conducted properly and that the case ended in a discharge. It was also alleged in the telegrams that attempts were being made to commit murder, dacoity and mischief by fire.

" (*b*) The allegations were inquired into. It is learnt that on 5th December 1953, a few Odayars had damaged a well dug by the Harijans and that the Police charged the accused for an offence under the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act and for rioting. The case ended in the discharge of the accused. Apart from this, no case of dacoity, murder or mischief by fire was reported by the Harijans against the Caste-Hindus."

Selection for appointment as Deputy Tahsildars.

* 2257 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons were selected for appointment as Deputy Tahsildars during 1954 in the Madras district; and

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(b) if so, whether general rule 22 regarding reservation of appointments was observed when selecting the candidates?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (a) Four.

" (b) Yes."

Outbreak of fire in Kothampakkam village.

* 2258 Q.—SRI M. P. SUBRAMANIAM (on behalf of Sri A. Govindaswamy Nayagar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any outbreak of fire in Kothampakkam village cheri, Villupuram taluk, on 26th February 1955;

(b) if so, the number of houses burnt;

(c) whether the Fire Service Officers helped to put down the fire; and

(d) whether any compensation was paid?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Twenty-eight huts were burnt.

" (c) Yes, Sir.

" (d) A free cash grant of Rs. 500 at Rs. 20 each was paid to 25 families who were poor and eligible for help from the Government.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER.

MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL.

DEPUTY SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House the following messages, dated the 22nd August 1955, received from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

(1) ' In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I return the Madras General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 16 of 1955), as passed by the Council on the 22nd August 1955 without any recommendation and signed by me.'

(2) ' In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Hill Stations (Preservation of Trees) Bill, 1955 (L.A. Bill No. 17 of 1955) as passed and agreed to by the Council on the 22nd August 1955 without any amendment and signed by me.'

" I have also to announce to the House the following messages dated the 23rd August 1955, received from the Hon. the Chairman, Madras Legislative Council :—

(1) ' In accordance with rule 130 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Police (Madras Amendment) Bill,